

## LEE \* LICKLE HOUSE (SITE)

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Such typically Victorian architectural elements as shingle-and-clapboard siding, porches, polygonal projections and multi-directional slate roofs were common to this house and others.

Also lost with the Lee-Lickle House and its neighbors, was the human scale of this 19th century rural courthouse town.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Lee-Lickle House (Site)

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Washington and Allegheny<sup>103</sup> Aves. (Southwest Corner)

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☒ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Nottingham Properties Inc.

Telephone #: 825-0545

STREET &amp; NUMBER

102 W. Pennsylvania Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21204

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

New Courts Building

STREET &amp; NUMBER

401 Bosley Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

Liber #:

Folio #: See Attachment

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

BA-1428

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>Winter, 77/78</u>

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

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When the southwest corner of the intersection of Washington and Allegheny Aves. was emptied of the three Victorian buildings which stood there, Towson suffered a major loss to the physical elements which give it its unique character. Chief among these buildings was the large dwelling known as the "Lee-Lickle House." The house, along with its two most immediate neighbors, was empty when first examined (Nov., 1977). Soon after the next, and subsequent, visits witnessed demolition by vandals and before a report could be finalized all three buildings had been removed. While the Dr. Jarrett Building was eventually transported to another site this house and "William Lee House #2" were demolished. Each was knocked down, broken up, loaded into trucks and added to the Texas landfill within a day.

The Queen Anne influence was strongly felt in Towson during the latter part of the Victorian era. The asymmetrical plans, varied exterior textures and shapes peculiar to that style were much in evidence. The crossroads formed by the intersection of Allegheny and Washington Aves. was perhaps the best example of this fact because there were, until recently at least, five Queen Anne style residences within two doors of the intersection. The Lee-Lickle House was the most prominent because of its size.

The Lee-Lickle House is constructed of a balloon frame with an exterior covering of beveled clapboards and shingles. It is a full two stories on stone foundation that is part of a full cellar. The oversized dormer and gables give the attic the role of a third story. A wrap around porch on the northeast corner (front), entrance porches on the east (side and back) and a second story gallery (sleeping porch) on the east facade increases the visual area which the house seems to occupy. This effect is increased both inside and outside by several polygonal projections (bay windows and swell fronts) on the north, east, and south sides.

The house is oriented to Allegheny Ave. This side contains the main entrance which is reached by ascending five steps and crossing the porch. Square paneled columns and banisters define the steps. The single story porch covers the east half of the first story and is supported by slender doric columns. Probably not original given the fact that both porches have turned columns with scroll work brackets. Extra brackets were found under this porch. A two story swell front occupies the west half of this facade. The upper and lower bays are separated by a string of inset panels. The top bay is crowned with a dentiled cornice. It is the north facade which contains the over sized dormer. It rises above the previously described first and second stories and does not culminate in the expected gable but in a jerkin-head roof. The dormer is vented by a row of three 1/1 windows (all windows 1/1 unless noted) and decorated with fishscale shingles.

The cross gabled north facade is noticeably plain and comparatively monolithic, a feature probably determined by the fact that the building shared a straight border on the West with a close neighbor.

The wrap around porch may be a response to the fact that the house occupied a corner lot which was unshared prior to the construction of Dr. Jarrett's office in 1900. The east facade therefore has the same frontality as the North

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

which is differentiated primarily by the formal porch entrance. Another swell-front can be seen in the central bay of this facade. It lights the dining room downstairs and an upstairs sitting room. A deeply corniced and sharply pitched gable tops the swell-front. This gable is vented by a decorative 18/1 window. A hipped roof dormer with a 1/1 window caps the north bay. A two story wing takes up the south bay. Porches cover both stories. The lower porch has the same turned columns and brackets as the back (south) porch. The upper porch or gallery is perceived as original by virtue of the same beveled siding as is seen in the exterior having been used to panel the interior wall. No proof exists that this was a "sleeping porch" but its proximity to the sleeping rooms and the sliding windows and screens supports such a description.

The south side or end of the house is narrow due to the T-plan of the house. It is two bays in width. A porch occupies the west bay and makes the southwest corner a negative space on the first story. The pantry windows vent the East on the first floor and a three sided bay window lights the second story.

The attic level is windowless but is shaped by a steeply pitched and open corniced gable.

The porch on the west end and the space between the other porch floors and the ground is covered with panels of lattice.

All of the windows, except the east gable, are 1/1 and have louvered shutters. The east swell front windows have custom cut shutters to accommodate the off size windows.

The crowning element of this zig-zag roofline is a most distinctive chimney. It is massive and made distinctive by a curvilinear cap which swells at its base.

Much of the interior was demolished prior to examination. The stairs, mantle, etc. had been removed.

As can be expected in a Queen Anne era building the interior of this house evolves in a somewhat irregular manner. There is a general L-shape to the building and its rooms are in general typified by their tall ceilings, large windows and mouldings of the period.

The full basement reflects the plan of the house and is constructed of uncoursed stone. Even the polygonal bay of the east facade is reflected in the shape of the cellar walls. The area is lighted by strategically placed windows and there is an exterior entrance on the west side of the south wing.

The south end of the room contains a square buttress and in the center of the cellar on an alignment with the chimney is a 5½' square stone pillar. This structure is not only the support for the chimney but it is load bearing to the first floor. One can see circular sawn joists which measure 2" X 10".

On the first floor one finds a half dozen rooms. In the main block or north end there is a hall, dining room and double parlors. The hall occupies the northeast corner and contains stairs that are attached to the east wall. Oral history suggests that the hall was lighted in part by a transom and sidelights filled with stained glass. Small square windows in the east and west walls lighted both the stairs and the hall. The hall is large and occupies approximately half the width of this wing and a parlor containing a fireplace the other. The north parlor is characterized by the three sided bay and the kitty-corner fireplace in the southeast corner of the room. This area of the house was stripped before recording but it is presumed that it contained the same oak colored trim as the rest of the house. In addition to the ovolo mouldings and bulls-eye cornerblocks there was a mantelpiece and double sliding doors between the parlors.

The two parlors occupied the west half of the main block. The hall and dining room was a bright area which was well lighted due to the swell front of the east facade. The ceilings of this and other rooms on this level, measure nine feet in height. There is a built-in closet (presumably for china, etc.) in the southwest corner of the room.

The south wing contains the kitchen area which includes a large walk-in pantry on the southeast corner. The same mouldings and cornerblocks are in the kitchen as well as tongue-and-groove wanscot rising vertically 4' above the floor. A chair rail tops this paneling and projects  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " out from the wall. There is a built-in cupboard occupying most of the north wall. It is  $8\frac{1}{2}$ ' high and  $4\frac{1}{2}$ ' wide. The northwest corner of the room contains an entrance to the cellar.

The southwest corner has an exit to the south porch and the southeast corner an entrance to the pantry. The northeast corner has a doorway leading into a small hallway. All of these doors contain metal boxlocks with porcelain knobs.

The second floor reflects the plan of the first. It can be reached by either the "front" steps in the entrance hall or the "back" steps in the small hall between the kitchen and dining room. It contains a large room directly over the dining room which is assumed to have been a sitting area. There are an additional three bedrooms. Although it is unknown if the Lee family had servants or not the "back" stairs and bedrooms of the south wing may have been the domestic provision of this design.

The bedrooms do not match in size. In the south bedroom there is a walk-in closet that has its own window.

There is a bathroom at the junction of the south wing to the main block (east side behind the sleeping porch) and it is perceived to be original. It contains the same wanscot as the kitchen, early 20th century plumbing fixtures and a "claw-foot" tub. Privies appear to have been the norm in Towson prior to the 1880's and certainly were in use long after. "Bath" rooms predate that period, however, and may have been the logical place for locations of later toilets.

The multi-shaped roof nearly constitutes a third story in terms of space. The jerkin head roof of the main block and the gables of the south wing result in varied interior spaces with equally varied ceiling shapes. A waist high plate in the north wing suggests proper half-storage. There are in all three rooms on the third level which can be reached by both sets of stairs- a further suggestion of a servants area. The roofs and partitions make this area choppy, but interesting. The hollow spaces created by rectangular walls intersecting with the pitched planes of the roof are utilized for storage. The attic of the south wing was reached by a treacherously located door in the stairwell that was wide enough to suggest this area as particularly designated for storage.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1890

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Of the dozen or so Victorian residences which once defined the intersection of Washington and Allegheny Avenues, this 1890's Queen Anne residence was one of the more prominent. Commercial development, however, has destroyed more than half of these houses.

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Also lost with the Lee-Lickle House and its neighbors was the human scale of this 19th century rural courthouse town.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Attachment

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY WAYNE L. NIELD, II**  
NAME / TITLE HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

## TITLE SEARCH FOR LEE-LICKLE HOUSE

Liber 5560, Folio 299 July 22, 1975  
Grantor: William F. Lickle et. al.  
Grantee: William F. Lickle, Jr.

"Beginning...southwest corner or intersection of Allegheny and Washington Avenues...150' to the north side of a 20' alley...West 100'... to place of beginning. Being lots No. 27 & 28 as designated on a plat of Washington Townsend's property...made by Charles B. McClean...Oct., 1882."

Liber 131, Folio 514 November 13, 1882  
Grantor: Washington Townsend & wife  
Grantee: William A. Lee

## Maps:

1887 G.M. Hopkins shows no house Owner-Washington Townsend  
1898 Bromley shows this house Owner-William A. Lee.



Lee-Lickle House  
Site

BA-1428



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MD DEPT OF ASSESS & TAX

SCALE IN FEET  
200 0 200 400 600

TOWSON  
SCALE 1" = 200'

DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION  
TAX MAP DIVISION  
This map is prepared and published by the Department of Assessments & Taxation, Maryland. It is a reproduction of the original map and is not to be used for any other purpose without the written consent of the Department. The Department is not responsible for any errors or omissions in this map.

MAP NO.  
70A



BA-1428

LEE-LICKLE HOUSE

N.W. CORNER

W. NIELD

WINTER 77-78



BA-1428

LEE-LICKLE HOUSE

E. FACADE

W. NIELD

WINTER 77-78



BA-1428

LEE-LICKLE HOUSE

E. FACADE

W. NIELD

WINTER 77-78





BA-1428

LEE-LICKLE HOUSE

N.W. CORNER

W. NIELD

WINTER 77-78



BA-1428

LEE-LICKLE HSE.  
S.

W. NIELD

1/78